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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/612,362

07/01/2003

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07/23/2007

EXAMINER

HAMMOND III, THOMAS M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3609

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/23/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/612,362

Applicant(s)

MERSKY, DEAN

Examiner

Thomas M. Hammond III

Art Unit

3609

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.


Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. This action is in reply to the application filed on 07/01/2003.
 2. Claims 1-21 are currently pending and have been examined.
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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As per claim 19

The claims recites the limitation, "...that likely correspond to at least some of the following...". The examiner is unable to determine the metes and bounds of this limitation therefore rendering the scope of the claim, indeterminate. The examiner will interpret this limitation as, *that correspond to at least one of the following.*

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 8, 13-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Krouse et al.*, US Patent No 6,097,834.

As per claim 8

Krouse teaches:

- A mechanism adapted to assign a type from a set of types to each of a plurality of images, wherein the plurality of images comprises images of accounts payable documents (see at least column 12, lines 38-62; column 2, lines 63-67)
- A first unit adapted to process images of a first type (see at least column 12, lines 38-62)
- A second unit adapted to process images of a second type wherein the second type is not the first type (see at least column 12, lines 38-62)
- A routing unit adapted to route images assigned the first type to the first processing unit and images assigned the second type to the second processing unit (see at least column 7, lines 7-31)

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As per claim 13

Krouse teaches:

- Obtaining an image of a document, assigning a type to the image, and processing the image based on the type assigned to it (see at least column 7, lines 32-67)

As per claims 14-16

Krouse teaches the method of claim 13, as described above.

Krouse further teaches:

- Wherein the type assigned is determined at least in part by the dimensions of the document (see at least column 7, lines 32-67)
- Wherein the type assigned is determined at least by identifying a trademark that is part of the image (see at least column 7, lines 32-67)
- Comprising obtaining images of a plurality of documents, assigning a type to each of the plurality of images, and processing each of the plurality of images based on the type assigned to it (see at least column 7, lines 32-67; column 2, lines 63-67)

As per claims 17, 21

Krouse teaches the method of claim 16, as described above.

Krouse further teaches:

- Wherein the plurality of documents comprise at least some checks and at least some invoices (see at least column 1, lines 6-27)
- Processing each of the plurality of images results in an automated accounting system being updated to include data obtained from each of the at least some checks and at least some invoices (see at least column 7, lines 7-30)
- Wherein processing each of the plurality of images comprises obtaining at least one additional image of the document for at least some document types (see at least column 7, lines 27-31)

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As per claim 18

Krouse teaches the method of claim 17, as described above.

Krouse further teaches:

- Wherein a single check type is assigned to each image of a plurality of images of received checks, and the check type is assigned at least in part based on dimensions of the document being imaged (see at least column 7, lines 32-67)

As per claim 19

Krouse teaches the method of claim 18, as described above.

Krouse further teaches:

- Wherein the check type is assigned at least in part based on identifying portions of the image that likely correspond to at least some of the following: a check number, a bar code, the text "pay to the order of", a signature, a payee, a date, and a payment amount (see at least column 7, lines 32-67)

As per claim 20

Krouse teaches the method of claim 19, as described above.

Krouse further teaches:

- Wherein the value of a portion of the bar code is determined to correspond to a value used to identify a known financial institution as part of the process of assigning a type to the document image (see at least column 7, lines 32-67)

Claim Rejection - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-7, 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Krouse*, in view of, *Guzelsu*, US Patent No. 6,381,587 B1.

As per claim 1

Krouse teaches:

- Obtaining an image of each of a plurality of accounts payable documents (see at least column 2, lines 63-67)
- Processing the images to extract data from them (see at least column 2, lines 63-67)
- Issuing payment for reconciled purchases (see at least column 3, lines 1-6)

Krouse does not teach:

- Processing the extracted data to reconcile purchases

Guzelsu teaches:

- Processing the extracted data to reconcile purchases (see at least column 2, lines 53-63)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Krouse to include the teachings of Guzelsu. One would have been motivated to do so in order to provide an automatic reconciliation, in an accounts payable system, capable of

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uncovering discrepancies between line item totals and invoice amounts (see at least Guzelsu column 3, lines 29-45).

As per claim 2

Krouse, in view of Guzelsu, teaches the method of claim 1, as described above.

Krouse does not teach:

- Processing the extracted data to reconcile items billed for with items ordered and delivered

Guzelsu teaches:

- Processing the extracted data to reconcile items billed for with items ordered and delivered (see at least column 2, lines 53-63)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Krouse to include the teachings of Guzelsu. One would have been motivated to do so in order to provide an automatic reconciliation, in an accounts payable system, capable of uncovering discrepancies between line item totals and invoice amounts (see at least Guzelsu column 3, lines 29-45).

As per claim 3

Krouse, in view of Guzelsu, teaches the method of claim 2, as described above.

Krouse further teaches:

- An accounts payable system adaptable to many different types of financial documents, including accounts payable documents (see at least column 1, lines 7-27)

Krouse does not explicitly teach:

- Wherein the accounts payable documents comprise a least one of each of a purchase order, a shipping invoice, and a billing invoice

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*The examiner takes **OFFICIAL NOTICE** that purchase orders, shipping invoices, and billing invoices are well-known types of accounts payable documents that would routinely be used in such a system, as taught by Krouse. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Krouse to explicitly state these teachings. One would have been motivated to do so in order to provide an automatic reconciliation, in an accounts payable system, capable of uncovering discrepancies between line item totals and invoice amounts (see at least Guzelsu column 3, lines 29-45).*

As per claim 4

Krouse, in view of Guzelsu, teaches the method of claim 3, as described above.

Krouse does not teach:

- Wherein the accounts payable documents comprise at least one of each of a credit memo and a debit memo

Guzelsu teaches:

- Wherein the accounts payable documents comprise at least one of each of a credit memo and a debit memo (see at least column 2, lines 11-15)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Krouse to include the teachings of Guzelsu. One would have been motivated to do so in order to provide an automatic reconciliation, in an accounts payable system, capable of uncovering discrepancies between line item totals and invoice amounts (see at least Guzelsu column 3, lines 29-45).

As per claim 5

Krouse, in view of Guzelsu, teaches the method of claim 4, as described above.

Krouse does not teach:

- Generating a report of non-reconciled events

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Guzelsu teaches:

- Generating a report of non-reconciled events (see at least column 9, lines 44-57).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Krouse to include the teachings of Guzelsu. One would have been motivated to do so in order to provide an automatic reconciliation, in an accounts payable system, capable of uncovering discrepancies between line item totals and invoice amounts (see at least Guzelsu column 3, lines 29-45).

As per claim 6

Krouse, in view of Guzelsu, teaches the method of claim 5, as described above.

Krouse further teaches:

- Wherein issuing payment comprises printing a check (see at least column 11, lines 43-56)

As per claim 7

Krouse, in view of Guzelsu, teaches the method of claim 1, as described above.

Krouse further teaches:

- Wherein the images of each of at least two documents are part of an image showing all of the at least two documents (see at least column 11, lines 56-67)

As per claim 9

Krouse, in view of Guzelsu, teaches the method of claim 8, as described above.

Krouse further teaches:

- An accounts payable system adaptable to many different types of financial documents, including accounts payable documents (see at least column 1, lines 7-27)

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Krouse does not teach:

- Wherein the images comprise images of at least two of the following: purchase orders, shipping invoices, billing invoices, credit memos, and debit memos

Guzelsu teaches:

- Wherein the images comprise images of at least two of the following: purchase orders, shipping invoices, billing invoices, credit memos, and debit memos (see at least column 2, lines 11-15)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Krouse to include the teachings of Guzelsu. One would have been motivated to do so in order to provide an automatic reconciliation, in an accounts payable system, capable of uncovering discrepancies between line item totals and invoice amounts (see at least Guzelsu column 3, lines 29-45).

As per claim 10

Krouse, in view of Guzelsu, teaches the method of claim 9, as described above.

Krouse further teaches:

- A unit adapted to accept documents for imaging and to obtain the plurality of images by obtaining images of any accepted documents (see at least column 12, lines 38-52)

As per claim 11

Krouse, in view of Guzelsu, teaches the method of claim 10, as described above.

Krouse further teaches:

- A document sorting unit adapted to sort received documents based on the types assigned to the document images (see at least column 7, lines 32-67)

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As per claim 12

Krouse, in view of Guzelsu, teaches the method of claim 10, as described above.

Krouse further teaches:

- A document marking unit adapted to mark each of the received documents with a mark corresponding to the type assigned to an image of the document (see at least column 7, lines 32-67)

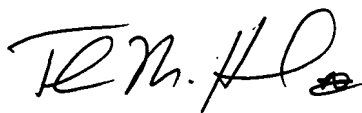
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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas M. Hammond III whose telephone number is 571-270-1829. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 7AM - 5PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Reagan can be reached on 571-272-6710. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Thomas M Hammond III

Patent Examiner

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07-16-07

JAMES REAGAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

